

## REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 63-74 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for allegedly being obvious over Dolan in view of Schaedel or Honda or Covino, further in view of Lowenheim. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 63 recites "having an essential content of at least one alkali metal"; "using direct current" (see, e.g., par. [0090]); and "wherein a current density is used in the range between 2 and 12 A/dm<sup>2</sup>". Therefore is no need of high energy, different from Dolan who uses 100-200 A/m<sup>2</sup>, which corresponds to 1-2 A/dm<sup>2</sup>, col. 4, l. 30.

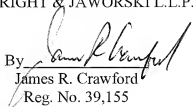
In Embodiment B Dolan teaches not to use alkaline metal hydroxide (col. 5, l. 48).

The obviousness-type double patenting rejection is not believed to apply to the presently pending claims in view of the amendments to the claims, as it believed that the particular current density, ranges of components in the solution and particular method steps distinguish from the claims of the '334 patent.

In view of the foregoing, so allowance is respectfully requested.

Any necessary fees may be charged to deposit account no. 50-0624.

Respectfully submitted  
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